

Appln. No. 10/086,390  
Amendment dated Dec. 05, 2005  
Reply to Office action of Aug. 03, 2005  
Docket No. BOC9-2001-0020

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the instant application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A file retrieval system comprising:

a file server connected to an internet;

a client machine including a Web browser connected to the internet, said Web browser displaying a Web page associated with a URL;

a file transfer server connected to the internet, wherein the file server, the client machine, and the file transfer server are remotely located from each other; wherein client machine is configured to convey a file request to the file transfer server, said file request including the URL, wherein the file transfer server is configured to establish a direct connection with the file server, and wherein at least one file associated with the URL is conveyed over the direct connection and stored in a storage space specified by the file transfer server, said storage space being remotely located from the client machine. A system for providing a file retrieval, storage and forwarding service for a user of a data communication network, said system comprising: a file transfer server connected to said network; said file transfer server communicating with said user to receive first and second different requests from at least one workstation operated by said user; said file transfer server including: elements responsive to a said first request to retrieve a data file from a source on said network identified in the respective request, said source remote from both said user workstation and transfer server, said elements acting further to store the retrieved file for said user; elements for confirming to said user retrieval and storage of said requested file; and elements responsive to a said second request issued by said user to transmit said stored file to said user.

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2. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the conveying of the URL to the transfer server is performed in a manner transparent to a user of the Web Browser, wherein a program automatically includes the URL of the displayed Web page in the file request. ~~A system in accordance with claim 1 wherein said first request may be issued by said user when, due to conditions at said user's workstation, it is more convenient to said user to have said file retrieved and stored by said file server than to download said file directly to said user's workstation.~~
3. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 2, wherein the Web page includes at least one hyperlink a file, wherein said at least one file associated with the URL is associated by said at least one hyperlink included within the Web page. ~~A system in accordance with claim 2 wherein said conditions at said user's workstation and the size of the requested file make it impractical for said user to directly download said requested file to said user's workstation.~~
4. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 3, wherein said at least one hyperlink includes a plurality of hyperlinks, wherein said at least one file associated with the URL includes a plurality of files. ~~A system in accordance with claim 2 wherein said conditions at said user's workstation involve execution of tasks more important than retrieval of the requested file, which tasks would be unduly impeded by direct downloading of the requested file to said user's workstation.~~
5. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the client machine is configured to offload a file retrieval process associated with retrieving said at least one file to the file transfer server to conserve processing resources of the client machine. ~~A system in accordance with claim 2 wherein said requested file is a large file, said user issues said first request from a first workstation operating at a slow transmission speed~~

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~~that makes it impractical for said user to directly download said requested file; and said user issues said second request from a second workstation operating at a fast transmission speed more conducive to efficient retrieval of the requested file.~~

6. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 5, further comprising:  
a different client machine connected to the internet, said different client machine having a connection to the internet which is faster than a connection of the client machine, wherein said second client machine is configured to retrieve said at least one file from the file transfer server. ~~A system in accordance with claim 2 wherein: said user workstation at which said first request is issued lies behind a firewall which effectively prevents transfer of data directly from said remote source to the respective workstation, but does not prevent prevent transfer of data from said transfer server to the same workstation.~~

7. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, further comprising:  
a firewall that prevents files from being directly transferred from the client machine and the file server. ~~A system in accordance with claim 5 wherein both said transfer server and a workstation instantly operated by said user to issue said first request are behind said firewall and said remote source of data is outside said firewall.~~

8. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 7, wherein the client machine is configured to retrieve the designated file from the file transfer server. ~~A system in accordance with claim 5 wherein both said transfer server and a workstation operated by said user to issue said second request are situated behind said firewall, and wherein said remote source of data and another workstation operated by said user to issue said first request are situated outside said firewall.~~

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9. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 8, wherein the firewall permits file transfer server to retrieve said at least one file from the file server, and wherein the firewall permits the client machine to retrieve said at least one file from the file transfer server. ~~A system in accordance with claim 5 wherein both the transfer server and a workstation operated by said user to issue said first request are behind said firewall, and said remote data source and another workstation operated by said user to issue said second request are outside said firewall.~~

10. (Currently Amended) A file retrieval method comprising:  
presenting a Web page within a Web browser of a first client machine, the Web page including at least one hyperlink to a file designated by the hyperlink, each said designated file being served by a file server connected to the first client machine via an internet;  
said client machine sending a first request to a file transfer server connected to the first client machine via the internet, the file request including a URL for the Web page;  
responsive to the first request, the file transfer server utilizing the URL to determine at least one file designated by the hyperlink;  
establishing a direct connection between the file server and the file transfer server;  
conveying the determined at least one file over the direct connection;  
storing the determined at least one file in a storage space remotely located from the client machine;  
the file transfer server receiving a second request for the stored at least one file from a second client machine; and  
the file transfer server conveying the stored at least one file to the second client machine. ~~A method of providing a data file retrieval, storage and forwarding service to a user of a data communication network, relative to a source of a data file remote from said user, said method comprising: maintaining a transfer service facility~~

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~~connected to said network; operating said facility to receive first and second requests at different times from workstations operated by said network user; responding to said first request to retrieve a data file from said remote source via said network; the location of said source on said network being indicated in said first request; storing said retrieved data file for said user; and responding to said second request to transmit said stored data file to a workstation instantly operated by said user to issue said second request.~~

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10, wherein the first client machine and the second client machines are different client machines, and wherein the first request and the second request are generated by a common user. A method of providing a file retrieval, storage and delivery service in accordance with claim 9 wherein said first and second requests are issued by different workstations remote from each other, both operated by said user.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10, wherein the second client machine is the same machine as the first client machine, and wherein the first request and the second request are generated by a common user. A method in accordance with claim 9 wherein said first and second requests are both issued by a single workstation operated by said user.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10, further comprising:  
after the first request has been sent and before the second request has been received, notifying a user who submitted the first request of a successful completion of the storing step. A method in accordance with claim 9 including the step, between responses to said first and second request, of notifying said user of successful completion of said retrieval and storing operations.

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14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein the notifying step comprises sending an email message to the user, wherein the second request is used by the user contingent upon receipt of the email message. A method in accordance with claim 12 wherein said network is the Internet; said workstation operated by said user to issue said first request employs a browser program to locate said remote data source; and said step of notifying said user of said successful completion comprises sending an e-mail message to said user containing said notification; and said second request is issued by said user contingent upon receipt of said confirming message.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10, further comprising: after the sending step, the client machine browsing the internet, wherein said submitting, establishing, conveying, and storing steps are performed concurrent with browsing step. The method of claim 12 wherein said first and second requests are issued at said user workstations by service programs provided by said service; said service programs being configured to run concurrent with said browser program; whereby transmittal of said first request presents minimal interference to other data processes currently being executed at the workstation instantly operated by said user to issue said first request; and whereby processes executed at said workstation, other than said service programs and browser program, are minimally impeded by the transmittal of said first request.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10, wherein a firewall prevents files from being directly transferred to the first client machine from the file server. The method of claim 12 wherein both said transfer server and a single said workstation issuing said first and second requests are behind a firewall; and said remote data file source is outside of said firewall; wherein said firewall is effective to prevent direct transmittal of said data file from said remote source to said single workstation, but

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~~ineffective to block transmittal of the same file from said source to said transfer server,  
and also ineffective to block transmittal of the same file from said transfer server to said  
single workstation.~~

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, the second client machine is the same machine as the first client machine. ~~The method of claim 12 wherein: said first and second requests are issued respectively by first and second different workstations; said transfer server and said second workstation are behind a firewall restricting communications between said network and both said second workstation and said transfer server; and said first workstation and said remote source are outside said firewall.~~

18. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 10, wherein the at least one hyperlink comprises a plurality of hyperlinks, wherein a plurality of files each of which are designated by a hyperlink are retrieved by the file transfer server responsive to the first request. ~~The method of claim 12 wherein: said first and second requests are respectively transmitted from different first and second workstations operated by said user; said first workstation and said transfer server are behind a firewall effectively preventing direct transmission of said data file from said remote source to said first workstation, but permitting transmission of said data file from said remote source to said transfer server; and said second workstation and said remote source are both outside said firewall.~~

19. (Currently Amended) A machine-readable storage having stored thereon, a computer program having a plurality of code sections, said code sections executable by a machine for causing the machine to perform the steps of:

selecting a Web site by designating a URL for the Web site;  
presenting in a Web browser content from the Web sites, said presented content including at least one hyperlink to a file;

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conveying a file request to a file transfer server thereby offloading to the file transfer server a task of retrieving files designated by the at least one hyperlink from a file server associated with the URL, wherein a program automatically includes the URL of the displayed Web page in the file request;

browsing while the file transfer server downloads the files designated by the at least one hyperlink without suffering performance losses which would have occurred had the task not been offloaded; and

retrieving the downloaded files from the file transfer server. ~~A program for a client user of a network transfer service, said service operating a transfer server, in response to requests received from said client, to retrieve, store and forward data from sources specified in said requests, said program comprising: elements for forming retrieval requests containing a network location from which data is to be retrieved; elements for connecting a workstation used by said client to said transfer server; elements for transmitting said retrieval requests to said transfer server; elements for forming transfer requests indicating data stored at said transfer server which is to be forwarded to said client; and elements for transmitting said transfer requests to said transfer server.~~

20. (Currently Amended) A machine-readable storage having stored thereon, a computer program having a plurality of code sections, said code sections executable by a machine for causing the machine to perform the steps of:

receiving a file request that includes a URL from a client machine;  
establishing a direct connection between a file server associated with the URL;  
detecting at least one hyperlinks contained within a Web page associated with the URL, each of the hyperlinks being associated with a file;  
requesting each file associated with a hyperlink of the Web page from the file server;  
receiving requested file over the direct connection;



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storing the received file in a storage space remotely located from the client machine; and

proving the stored file to a user of the client machine upon request. ~~A program for a transfer server operated by a network transfer service, said transfer operating relative to a data transmission network to retrieve, store and forward data in behalf of client users of said transfer service; said program comprising: elements responsive to retrieval requests received from said client users to retrieve and store data for respective client users; said retrieval requests specifying network locations at which respective data is to be retrieved; elements operating on completing retrieval and storage of data specified in said retrieval requests for transmitting notification communications to respective said client users; and elements responsive to transfer requests received from said client users for forwarding data stored in response to prior retrieval requests to respective client users.~~